

# Chuck the barber was a hit on and off the baseball field

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Correspondent



**CHUCK PARSONS:** Banker turned barber was a pitching star with Markham and Stouffville teams.

In the game of baseball, Chuck Parsons was a battler.

On the mound, in 1956, he led the Stouffville Red Sox to the Tri-County League championship.

Later, he would sparkle on the hill with Markham teams over several seasons.

In the game of life, Parsons was also a fighter. He battled leukemia with the same kind of courage. On May 17, the great umpire in the sky called him home.

Born in Exeter, Ont., 64 years ago, Charles Parsons arrived in Stouffville at age 20, confident of a career in banking. He joined the staff of Scotiabank.

However, an extra-curricular activity soon beckoned. Within days, he was suited up and throwing strikes for the town's top summer sporting attraction, the Stouffville Red Sox.

"He was a brilliant pitcher," Ted Cadieux, now of Cannington recalled. "He was also a jokester, a real fun-loving

guy."

Parsons, along with mound mates Earl Cook and Lorne Schell, led Stouffville to their fifth Intermediate title in eight years, defeating Orillia for the championship. Other members on that team included: Bob Hassard, Ken Schell, Lloyd Jennings, Hal Gibson, Lou Raxlin, Stan Miller, Ken Laushway, Don Haynes, Ken Wagg and Walt Smith.

He threw one of only three no-hitters in Stouffville baseball history.

After leaving the banking business, Parsons partnered with Markham barber Percy Wideman and then branched out on his own. Chuck's Barbershop, as his place was called, soon became the "gondola" for all sports gossip, in Markham and beyond.

For Parsons was interested every kind of sport: hockey, baseball, football, golf, you name it, there was little he didn't know. The Blue Jays winning two world series titles had him riding Cloud Nine.

It was said by Ashmore Reesor, a close friend of Parsons, that he could hit a golf ball so far it would make Tiger

Woods pack up his bags and go home.

A nephew, David Holtzman, recalled a game attended by Parsons at Detroit's old Tiger Stadium. As a CBC cameraman zeroed in on a group of Tigers fans, Parsons stood up and shouted: "Those guys don't know baseball. Come over here and talk to some who do, all Blue Jays fans." The cameraman accepted the invitation, but Parsons ran in an opposite direction.

Holtzman and Reesor delivered eulogies, Wednesday, at a service of celebration held in St. Andrew's United Church in Markham. It was largely attended. Dr. Fred Styles, the minister in charge, described Parsons as "a town fixture."

"He was known to almost everyone.

He lived life the way life should be lived, full of love and full of laughter."

It was Feb. 14 that Parsons was diagnosed with leukemia. He died three months later in Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Besides his wife, the former June Trivett, Parsons is survived by one son, Paul (and Sandy) Parsons of Stouffville; one daughter, Pam (and Moe Storozuk) of Orangeville; a sister Doreen of Exeter and two grandchildren, Shannon and Ryne Parsons of Stouffville.

Chuck Parsons — athlete, banker and barber; husband, father and grandfather, is gone.

In two communities, Stouffville and Markham, his memory lives on.



## TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS,

MAY 29, MAY 30, JUNE 5 AND JUNE 6, 2001

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN IMPROVING  
TRANSPORTATION IN YORK REGION

The Region of York has initiated a Transportation Master Plan to address the long term transportation needs of its residents and businesses. The end result will be a transportation strategy that is achievable, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible. The Transportation Master Plan study will create a long-term vision and plan to guide the development of the Region over the next 30 years, and determine priorities for the short term. It will take into account the movement of both people and goods across the Region, and between the Region and the City of Toronto and other parts of the GTA. In developing the vision and plan, all modes of travel - ranging from walking to public transit to driving - will be examined. In finding solutions to our transportation challenges, economic, environmental and community needs of our Region will be reviewed.

### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

You are invited and encouraged to attend our public consultation meetings to express your views and concerns on the Region's transportation vision and potential long-term solutions.

The following meetings will each be comprised of a drop-in open house session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and a formal presentation and question period from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 29, 2001**  
Sutton Arena, Town of Georgina,  
65 Hawkins Street

**Wednesday, May 30, 2001**  
Town of Markham, Council Chambers  
101 Town Centre Boulevard,  
(north side of Highway No. 7, west of Warden Avenue)

**Tuesday, June 5, 2001**  
City of Vaughan Civic Centre, Council Chambers, Second Floor  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive (east of Keele)

**Wednesday, June 6, 2001**  
York Region Administrative Centre  
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket  
(between Davis Drive and Eagle Street), Newmarket

The scope and success of this study depends greatly on public input and participation. To receive further information on this study please visit the project web site by clicking on "Sustainable Transportation Initiatives" on the York Region homepage: [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca). If you wish to have your name placed on our mailing list for future notices, please contact:

Sean Hertel, Corporate Communications  
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Transportation Master Plan  
Transportation Planning and Approvals Branch  
The Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
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